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Sisters Woodlands wins zoning approval

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Following a public hearing at last week's meeting, City Council unanimously approved the application to rezone and redesignate the 35.84-acre property located at 201 N. Pine St., formerly owned by the U.S. Forest Service and zoned Public Facilities (27.53 acres), Urban Area Reserve (4.76 acres), and Open Space (3.55 acres).

The approval by Council came after the recommendation for approval, with conditions, from staff and from the Sisters Planning Commission. As part of the application were several edits, in support of the rezoning, to the

See REZONING on page 30



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER

Local artists plied their craft and showed their wares at an Art in the Vineyard event at Faith, Hope & Charity Vineyards last weekend (see story, page 6). The local arts community is coming up with creative ways to sustain itself, even under the constraints of the coronavirus pandemic.

Prescribed burning set to begin in Sisters Country

The season for prescribed burning has arrived.

Sisters Ranger District fuels specialists have identified two critical areas — the Metolius Basin and areas adjacent to the Highway 20 and Indian Ford Road intersection — to do prescribed burning this fall.

The prescribed burns are planned around increased moisture and decreased temperatures. Fire managers expect a limited window of suitable weather.

Prescribed burns are designed to reduce potential for large wildfires, reduce excess vegetation, and improve overall forest health. Burning could start as early as this week and will

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Planning underway for Sisters' future

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Much has been written lately about the City's plan to update its Comprehensive Plan, a task last done in 2005. Public engagement with this process is crucial if the completed document is to be of use to the City.

The comp plan is like a master plan that lays out how Sisters will grow over the next 20 years based on State goals and the desires of the community. If residents want to have a say in that growth, the comprehensive planning process is a major opportunity to be involved.

Last week at a joint meeting of the Sisters City Council and the Sisters Planning Commission, the consultants for the comp plan introduced the draft Community Engagement

Plan (CEP), which provides a road map for how the public can get involved in the update and how the City will solicit citizen feedback. This feedback, along with the technical studies prepared by the consultants, form the foundation of the comp plan.

The comp plan is the City's long-range plan for how it will grow and serve its community members over the next 20 years. It has a strong emphasis on how land is used, developed, and/or conserved. Primary topics in the plan include community involvement, housing, economic development, natural resources and hazards, and public infrastructure and facilities, among others. The plan provides a set of goals, objectives, and policies that provide overarching guidance for future City decisions.

See COMP PLAN on page 26

Davis to head local sheriff's detail

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

"This is my dream job."

That is how Lt. Chad Davis of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) described his feelings about being named to head the sheriff's unit at the Sisters substation.

Davis has been a resident of Sisters for 25 years, during which time he first worked for the old Sisters Police Department as a reserve deputy while finishing up his degree in law enforcement at Western Oregon University. In 1996, the Sisters department was disbanded with Davis and some other deputies being absorbed into the DCSO.

His experience with Deschutes County has been broad and varied. In 1998 he became a patrol canine handler with Ike, the German shepherd, who worked with him for six years. He spent



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Lt. Chad Davis will lead the Sisters law-enforcement contingent of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office under the City's new contract with DCSO.

18-months as part of the SWAT unit, spent several different periods as a criminal detective sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. In between, he served as a patrol sergeant and lieutenant.

Davis thinks his periods of being a detective in the criminal division provided opportunities for positive personal and professional

growth. As he mentors his three deputies here in Sisters for the next step, he said he will encourage them to spend time in the criminal division.

Davis's older brother served in the U.S. Army as a military policeman and was Davis's inspiration when he was a senior at Sweet Home

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